

## Rural Utilities Service, USDA

## § 1737.11

*Rural area* means any area of the United States, its territories and possessions (including any area within the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau) not included within the boundaries of any incorporated or unincorporated city, village or borough having a population exceeding 5,000 inhabitants. The population figure is obtained from the most recent data available, such as from the Bureau of the Census and Rand McNally and Company. For purposes of the "rural area" definition, the character of an area is determined as of a time the initial loan for the system is made.

*Special project* means facilities involving investment in excess of \$100,000 for any single subscriber.

*Subscriber* means the same as access line.

*Subsequent Loan* means any loan to a borrower which has already received a loan.

*Telephone service* means any communication service for the transmission or reception of voice, data, sounds, signals, pictures, writing, or signs of all kinds by wire, fiber, radio, light, or other visual or electromagnetic means and includes all telephone lines, facilities and systems to render such service. It does not mean:

- (1) Message telegram service;
- (2) Community antenna television system services or facilities other than those intended exclusively for educational purposes; or
- (3) Radio broadcasting services or facilities within the meaning of section 3(o) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended.

*Times Interest Earned Ratio (TIER)* means the ratio of a borrower's net income (after taxes) plus interest expense, all divided by interest expense. For the purpose of this calculation, all amounts will be annual figures and interest expense will include only interest on debt with a maturity greater than one year.

[54 FR 13356, Apr. 3, 1989. Redesignated at 55 FR 39396, Sept. 27, 1990, as amended at 56 FR 26598, June 10, 1991; 58 FR 66256, Dec. 20, 1993]

### § 1737.3 Availability of RUS forms.

Single copies of RUS forms and publications cited in this part are available

from Administrative Services Division, Rural Utilities Service, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250. These RUS forms and publications may be reproduced. The terms "RUS form", "RUS standard form", and "RUS specification" have the same meanings as the terms "REA form" "REA standard form", and "REA specification", respectively, unless otherwise indicated.

[54 FR 13356, Apr. 3, 1989. Redesignated at 55 FR 39396, Sept. 27, 1990, as amended at 59 FR 66441, Dec. 27, 1994]

### §§ 1737.4–1737.9 [Reserved]

## Subpart B—Preapplication Stage

### § 1737.10 Initial contact.

Initial loan applicants seeking assistance should write the Rural Utilities Service, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250. A field representative will be assigned by RUS to visit the applicant and discuss its financial needs and eligibility. Existing borrowers initiate the contact directly with their assigned field representative. Borrowers consult with RUS field representatives and headquarters staff, as necessary.

### § 1737.11 Preapplication determinations.

Before submitting an application to RUS, the borrower should consider the following:

(a) *Area to be served.* The proposed service area should neither include subscribers already receiving adequate service from another telephone system nor leave out unserved pockets of potential subscribers who have indicated an interest in service and are located between the proposed system and neighboring systems. See 7 CFR 1735.11 on Area Coverage and 7 CFR 1735.12 on Nonduplication. In establishing service area boundaries, borrowers should consider the location of adjoining systems, natural boundaries such as rivers and mountains, and economic and cultural features such as trading and community centers.

(b) *Number of subscribers.* The borrower must estimate the number of subscribers that will request service from the proposed system.